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3/2/1101 PATENTULUELL

Docket No.: <u>041-1790E</u>

MAR 2 1 2001

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Takayuki SUGAHARA

Serial No. 09/469,499

:Prior Group Art Unit: 2713

CPA of application filed: 22 December 1999

:Prior Examiner Y. Lee

For:

REPRODUCTION APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING USER MODIFIABLE PROTECTION OF DATA REPRODUCTION (as

amended)

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D. C. 20231

MAR 2 3 2001

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above identified continued prosecution application, please amend the application as follows:

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 23-27, and rewrite the remaining claims as follows.

## Clean Copy of Rewritten Claims

protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data medium, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting medium protection data which are also conveyed by

5 said data medium;